

CLAIMS

1. A reproduction apparatus for performing a digest reproduction of a recorded program by referring to digest
5 information, the recorded program being a recording of some or all segments of an original program, comprising:

a program recording information processing section operable to generate program recording information with respect to the recorded program, the program recording information containing
10 information of recorded segments relative to the original program;

a communication section operable to communicate via a network with a server which stores digest information with respect to the original program, the digest information containing information of a digest segment to be used for the digest reproduction;

15 a server digest information processing section operable to compare the program recording information concerning the recorded program and the digest information corresponding to the recorded program, and acquire, from the server, digest information containing information of digest segments at least some of which
20 coincide with the recorded segments; and

a reproduction processing section operable to reproduce the recorded program based on the digest information acquired by the server digest information processing section.

25 2. The reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, further

comprising a user digest information processing section operable to generate new digest information based on the digest information acquired by the server digest information processing section, the new digest information containing information of a digest segment
5 which is reproducible from the recorded program,

wherein the reproduction processing section is operable to reproduce the recorded program further based on the new digest information generated by the user digest information processing section.

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3. The reproduction apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a program reproduction history information processing section operable to generate, with respect to the recorded program, program reproduction history information containing information
15 of an unreproduced segment, the unreproduced segment being one of the recorded segments which has not been reproduced yet,

wherein the user digest information processing section is operable to generate new digest information further based on the program reproduction history information, the new digest
20 information being used for reproducing the unreproduced segment of the recorded program.

4. The reproduction apparatus according to claim 2,

wherein the user digest information processing section is
25 operable to, with respect to a plurality of pieces of digest

information stored in the server concerning a given recorded program, subject the digest segments contained in the plurality of pieces of digest information to a logical operation, and further generate new digest information containing information of a digest segment obtained as a result of the logical operation.

5 5. The reproduction apparatus according to claim 2,
 wherein the information of the recorded segments and the
 information of the digest segment are time information described
10 in terms of relative time from the beginning of the program.

 6. The reproduction apparatus according to claim 3,
 wherein the information of the recorded segments, the
 information of the digest segment, and the information of the
15 unreproduced segment are time information described in terms of
 relative time from the beginning of the program.

 7. The reproduction apparatus according to claim 1,
 wherein,
20 the digest information includes a broadcast type concerning
 image quality of the program, and
 the server digest information processing section is operable
 to determine which digest information to acquire by referring to
 the broadcast type.

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8. The reproduction apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein,

the digest information includes a codec type concerning
encoding/decoding processes used for the program, and

5 the server digest information processing section is
operable to determine which digest information to acquire by
referring to the codec type.

9. The reproduction apparatus according to claim 1,
10 wherein,

the digest information includes information identifying an
individual or group that has created the digest information,

and the server digest information processing section is
operable to determine which digest information to acquire by
15 referring to the identifying information.

10. The reproduction apparatus according to claim 9,
wherein,

the digest information includes presence/absence of
20 authentication concerning whether an authentication has been made
by the individual or group that has created the digest information,
and

the server digest information processing section is operable
to determine which digest information to acquire by referring to
25 the presence/absence of authentication.

11. The reproduction apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein,

the digest information includes a bit rate concerning motions
5 within an image pertaining to the digest segment, and

the server digest information processing section is
operable to determine which digest information to acquire by
referring to the bit rate.

10 12. The reproduction apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein,

the digest information includes presence/absence of offset
concerning whether there is an offset relative to the digest segment,
and

15 the server digest information processing section is operable
to determine which digest information to acquire by referring to
the presence/absence of offset.

13. The reproduction apparatus according to claim 12,
20 wherein the digest information includes a correction amount
for the digest segment in a case where there is an offset.

14. The reproduction apparatus according to claim 12,
wherein the presence/absence of offset includes information
25 indicating that a correction amount for the digest segment in a

case where there is an offset is available for a charge.

15. A reproduction method for performing a digest reproduction of a recorded program by referring to digest
5 information, the recorded program being a recording of some or all segments of an original program, comprising the steps of:

generating program recording information with respect to the recorded program, the program recording information containing information of recorded segments relative to the original program;

10 communicating via a network with a server which stores digest information with respect to the original program, the digest information containing information of a digest segment to be used for the digest reproduction;

comparing the program recording information concerning the
15 recorded program and the digest information corresponding to the recorded program, and acquiring, from the server, digest information containing information of digest segments at least some of which coincide with the recorded segments; and

reproducing the recorded program based on the digest
20 information acquired by the server digest information processing section.

16. A computer-readable program for causing a computer to execute a method for performing a digest reproduction of a recorded
25 program by referring to digest information, the recorded program

being a recording of some or all segments of an original program,
comprising the steps of:

generating program recording information with respect to
the recorded program, the program recording information containing
5 information of recorded segments relative to the original program;

communicating via a network with a server which stores digest
information with respect to the original program, the digest
information containing information of a digest segment to be used
for the digest reproduction;

10 comparing the program recording information concerning the
recorded program and the digest information corresponding to the
recorded program, and acquiring, from the server, digest
information containing information of digest segments at least
some of which coincide with the recorded segments; and

15 reproducing the recorded program based on the digest
information acquired by the server digest information processing
section.

17. An integrated circuit for use in a reproduction apparatus
20 for performing a digest reproduction of a recorded program by
referring to digest information, the recorded program being a
recording of some or all segments of an original program,

wherein the integrated circuit is incorporated in a
reproduction apparatus having a communication section operable
25 to communicate via a network with a server which stores digest

information with respect to the original program, the digest information containing information of a digest segment to be used for the digest reproduction,

the integrated circuit comprising circuitry which functions
5 as:

a program recording information processing section operable to generate program recording information with respect to the recorded program, the program recording information containing information of recorded segments relative to the original program;

10 a server digest information processing section operable to compare the program recording information concerning the recorded program and the digest information corresponding to the recorded program, and acquire, from the server, digest information containing information of digest segments at least some of which
15 coincide with the recorded segments; and

a reproduction processing section operable to reproduce the recorded program based on the digest information acquired by the server digest information processing section.